

# Aptos dog park coming this summer

*Animals*  
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Sandy, a 4-year-old golden retriever, loves to romp around at the Polo Grounds: the feel of the green grass under her paws as she catches a yellow Frisbee her pal Mike Lewis of Aptos throws across a broad expanse near the parking lot; the smell of clean air lightly scented by the nearby trees and flowers.

You can almost imagine how much more Sandy and other canines will love coming to

the county park when they have their own swatch of land, complete with drinking fountains for both her and Mike.

A dog park will be built at the grounds this summer with groundbreaking expected in a couple weeks, said Barry Samuel, County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services director.

The park will be 37,000 square feet and enclosed by 805 linear feet of fence. There will be two benches and of course the water fountain.

That's good news for Nancy Minch of Aptos. Minch is a dog-sitter who sometimes makes two trips a day to the Polo Grounds with her pooch posse.

"I think it's great," said the retired police records clerk and postal carrier. "I see they're already putting up fences."

Each time she goes to the park, Minch lugs jugs of water so she and the dogs have plenty to drink.

Tuesday, she exercised Molly the giant schnauzer, Teddy the golden retriever and

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Andy the West Highland terrier — three 4-and-5-year-old vigorously frisky dogs that jumped and ran along the grassy area with their tongues wagging and lungs panting in the afternoon sun.

With that, it was time go home and return with three more dogs who were older and slower, but revved to play in the grass and sun all the same.

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